



NEWS BULLETIN

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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STEVE LEVY
Suffolk County Executive

ALAN SCHNEIDER
Personnel Director

February 2009

For **Y**our **I**nformation from...

Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services

Joseph F. Williams, Commissioner



SUFFOLK COUNTY **SERVES** SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SUFFOLK EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR RETENTION IN THE VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY SERVICE (SERVES)...in most areas of Suffolk County, it is volunteers who respond to fire, rescue and emergency medical services (EMS). In many parts of the country, including Suffolk County, the membership of these volunteer emergency services agencies has declined to critical levels. In response to this vital need for volunteers, Suffolk County has developed the Suffolk Educational program for Retention in the Volunteer Emergency Services (SERVES) scholarship as an incentive for people to serve in the volunteer emergency services. This program will allow Fire and EMS Volunteers who have not completed eighty (80) lifetime credit hours to do so at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC).

Developed by the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and funded in part by the United States Department of Homeland Security's (US DHS) staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, this innovative program is available for full and part time students entering SCCC.

Volunteers under the SERVES scholarship program will be eligible to have their tuition paid in full while maintaining their membership as an active member in good standing in one of Suffolk County's volunteer fire companies or EMS providers. There is no limitation as to the academic program the SERVES recruit can enter at any SCCC campus.

A SERVES student/volunteer must maintain volunteer activity and training levels and certain academic objectives during their course of study and must commit to a post-education service obligation of two (2) to five (5) years following the receipt of their total SERVES funding.

"Our volunteer firefighters and EMS workers provide crucial services for all county residents," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy. "We are proud that our volunteer recruitment and retention programs have received national recognition and achieved substantial competitive funding. This scholarship is just one of the things we have done to help retain our experienced first responders and recruit new members."

Members of fire departments or EMS agencies must forward the **SERVES** nomination to the Suffolk County Recruitment and Retention Committee by **May 1** of each year.

For more information on the SERVES program and/or forms, click on the following link which is on the county web site: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/fres/2008%20serves%20administrative%20guide%20040108.pdf> or call Joe Trzepizur at the Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue & Emergency Services (631) **852-4885**, email: joe.trzepizur@suffolkcountyny.gov.

Dial **"911"** only for life-threatening emergencies.
Do not dial "911" for information.
Dial **"852-COPS"** for non-emergency Police calls in Suffolk County.